



Town of West Boylston

140 Worcester Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

Solid Waste Advisory Team (SWAT) Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2018 – 1:30 PM

Town Hall Meeting Room

Members Present: Julianne deRivera, Norma Chanis, Duane Henry, Vernon Jackson (DPW Director) Barur Rajeshkumar, Elise Wellington
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Chairman deRivera opened the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Approval of previous minutes: Henry moved approval of SWAT's August 9, 2018 meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Chanis and approved by all members.

Town Wide Clean-up/West Boylston Day: Chanis stated that over 100 people had signed up to pick up trash October 13th. Henry had already picked up trash along Shrewsbury St between Angell Brook condos and the Worcester Country Club, which filled 5 large yellow bags. Henry stated that nips were the most common item he picked up but that he also picked up 37 golf balls, along with paint cans but no needles. West Boylston DWP can be called to pick up the filled trash bags left on the side of the road. Chanis mentioned the town's web site includes streets in need of litter pick-up attention. Jackson said that the DPW dumpster would remain on site until October 20th. Chanis said she would be manning an information booth from 8 a.m. thru noon with literature on recycling textiles, composting, and dog poop contamination issues. Then there would be food from noon to 2 pm that day. Especially noted was Kate Boston's donation of her home-made Thai food dishes alongside other home-baked goodies.

Fall Clean up news article: Henry will follow up on when it will be published as he submitted it to 'The Item' over 3 weeks ago.

Composting at the High School: deRivera reported her lack of progress. She had emailed the 3 teachers nominated by the Superintendent a video on how other schools had undertaken sorting cafeteria food/recyclables/trash to then compost, but none replied. DeRivera will follow up with the Superintendent again and the chair of the School Committee, Jen Breen.

Trash/Recycling FY 2018 Spreadsheet Results: Jackson brought in a revised Spreadsheet for FY '18 after Wellington reviewed and corrected it. The consensus was that this past year was similar to the previous year; in terms of trash tons generated 1400 tons, recyclable tons generated 700 tons, recycling rate stable at 32%, but net program costs increased from \$233,000 in FY17 to \$242,000 in FY18.

DEP web site (<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-environmental-protection>): Jackson said he would have Keri post DEP's Recycling IQ Kit (found on DEP's web site) on the DPW web site to further our educational efforts in the town. Wellington said she had looked at the DEP site and found much concerning businesses' recycling issues (see:

info@recyclingworksma.com). It mentions that E.L. Harvey in Westboro is hosting the RecyclingWorks' Fall Forum for businesses and institutions on November 7, from 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. This Forum will focus on contamination of recyclables. Wellington is unable to attend, but Chanis may attend. Wellington wondered if SWAT should notify the area Chamber of Commerce and/or Selectman John Hadley, who heads the town's Economic Development Committee, about this Forum. Rajeshkumar mentioned that West Boylston belongs to the Wachusett Area Chamber of Commerce in Holden.

General discussion on SWAT's priorities: Rajeshkumar mentioned that citizens could petition for a single use plastic bag ban; Wellington said they would only need 10 signatures to get it on the warrant. Concern was voiced that it might hurt small businesses in town and Henry added that Walmart would not be able to do anything different than its national standards. Also, there is the problem of the inability to enforce it as several communities that have already instituted a ban are finding it difficult. Wellington also noted that as of January 2019, the Casella landfill will close. Most likely our trash will then go to Wheelabrator's incinerator. Jackson stated that our contracts are up in 2019 (trash) and 2021 (recyclables). Wellington spoke about the October 4th Channel 2 national evening News report on the problem of plastic waste. The US produces 1/3 of the world's waste but only constitutes 4.4% of the world's population! [This percentage is accurate – I checked!] According to this report, the cost of disposing recyclables, including plastic waste, in the U.S. is increasing from zero to \$40 - \$60/ton!

SWAT presentation for Town Meeting: SWAT members felt that there was nothing new to report but that we could mention not putting plastic bags or styrofoam in the recycling bins. Also using the recycling bins for your recyclables, rather than large plastic bags.

Next meeting scheduled for December 13, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment: 2:40 p.m. deRivera made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Wellington. Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by,
Julianne deRivera, Chair
SWAT

